



# SEDGWICK PARISH NEWSLETTER

## CHRISTMAS 2025



**Photograph by Richard Gill**

# Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter

Before sharing our Council News, we have an urgent message to all residents:

For nearly a year, there have been vacancies on the council but nobody has come forward to fill the roles and we are now struggling to hold regular quorate meetings. The situation cannot continue beyond March as we will become inquorate and the council will cease to be able to function. This will lead to Westmorland and Furness Council having to step in and appoint their representatives as our councillors. Residents will lose direct control over decisions and council assets and the future of the Millennium Field, Canal Wildlife Area and Footpath may be in doubt.

In addition, we will not be able to continue representing your views and needs in important local issues such as planning and highways.

Sedgwick Parish Council has served the community for over 50 years and has achieved a great deal, making a positive contribution to local life. We believe it is essential for the benefit of residents, that it continues to do this.

**IT IS NOW CRITICAL THAT WE RECRUIT TWO NEW COUNCILLORS  
SO THAT WE CAN MAINTAIN LOCAL CONTROL OF VILLAGE AMENITIES- WE NEED TO ACT NOW.**

Please consider putting your name forward – the role is not an onerous one but it is vital if the Council is to continue its current workload. We only have 6 meetings a year (each about 90 minutes long) and one Annual Parish meeting with councillors expected to read and respond to emails and help with things like delivering newsletters 3 times a year, if they are able to do so.

**STOP PRESS** Following the retirement of our wonderful Clerk Rachel Harrison, Sedgwick Parish Council is looking to appoint a new Clerk to manage the Parish Council's day to day business such as preparing agendas, minutes and deal with correspondence. IT skills are essential, and training will be provided. Salary is in accordance with the NALC guidelines LC1 point 7, and the clerk will be expected to work five hours a week from home, plus attend 7 90-minute meetings a year. Further details can be obtained from the current clerk [clerk@sedgwickparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sedgwickparishcouncil.org.uk)

**20mph SPEED LIMIT:** The speed limit is now installed and has bedded in. Thank you to the residents who came along to meet with the Westmorland and Furness 20mph Team to feedback views about the success of the scheme. We continue to lobby for more signs especially at the beginning of the new zone. We are expecting speed monitoring exercises to take place in the new year, including speed checks by Cumbria Police.

**CRICKET CLUB:** The Council has made a donation of £200 to support Sedgwick Cricket Club's plan to purchase land so they can extend the playing area to create a full oval around the square. We wish them well as they reach their target.

**BUS STOP:** Following feedback from residents, we have been successful in our request for a proper bus stop and timetable sign in the village.

**CANAL WILDLIFE AREA:** Our Annual Woodland Inspection has confirmed that our trees are doing well, despite Ash Die Back and Dutch Elm Disease. However, the stone wall boundary is still causing us problems and although four significant repairs have been made, a further section has collapsed and needs repairing.

**MILLENNIUM FIELD:** The new community orchard and hedge grew well over the summer and a sign has been installed to acknowledge the grant we received from Westmorland and Furness Council. The play equipment has been checked and minor repairs made. We will need a community work party in the spring, to carry out our usual annual maintenance tasks – date to follow.

**NEWSPAPER DELIVERIES:** Newspapers are no longer being delivered to the Telephone Box but there is a delivery service that delivers papers to your door – for around £5 per week. See <https://www.newsteamgroup.co.uk>. The Telephone Box will remain a Community Book Box and we thank Dorinda for her all her hard work in keeping this service going all year round; it is much appreciated.

**FREE TREES FROM W&F COUNCIL :** Westmorland and Furness Council have launched an ambitious project to help our communities to plant one tree, or one metre of hedgerow equivalent, for every resident. This means planting a quarter of a million trees over a five-year period. You can apply for a free tree here <https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/your-environment/one-tree-resident-project>



**We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2025**  
**Sedgwick Parish Council**

# SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

**Parish Clerk;** (Until January 7<sup>th</sup>) Rachel Harrison  
14 Helmside Gardens, Oxenholme LA9 7HN  
Tel: 07717357176 [clerk@sedgwickparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sedgwickparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Westmorland and Furness Council** [www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](http://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)  
Cllr Doug Rathbone T: 01768807678 M: 07795925328  
[doug.rathbone@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:doug.rathbone@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)  
Cllr Jonathan Brook [jonathan.brook@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.brook@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)



**Councillors:**  
**Chair: Boyan Holmes** The Oaks, 61644  
**Vice Chair: Bernie Tanham**  
The Wharf, 60179  
**John Hall**  
1 Wakefield Meadow 07974416657  
**Gerry Stoker;**  
4, Wakefield Meadow, 07368 366411

## COUNCIL MEETINGS 2026



January 14<sup>th</sup> March 11<sup>th</sup> May 13<sup>th</sup> July 8<sup>th</sup> September 9<sup>th</sup> November 11<sup>th</sup>  
**7.30pm Sedgwick Village Hall Annual Parish Meeting March 18<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**Residents are always welcome at meetings.**

Each meeting includes a Public Forum as part of the agenda for residents to ask questions, raise items of concern or simply comment on issues. Submission of questions in advance of the meeting is welcomed, so that they can be answered more fully. Matters raised that are not included on that agenda will be considered for subsequent agendas.



**Our Website** [www.sedgwickparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.sedgwickparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Our Email** [sedgwick.parish@gmail.com](mailto:sedgwick.parish@gmail.com)

**Sedgwick**  
**NO COLD CALLING ZONE**

**COLD CALLERS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN SEDGWICK!**  
If they call on you, contact Cumbria Police on 101 **immediately** and report them to 01539713583  
[trading.standards@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)

**SEDGWICK BOOK BOX**



There is a Book Sharing Box in the old phone box. Please feel free to use to swap a book in or out and share with the village  
**TAKE A BOOK-LEAVE A BOOK**



Sedgwick Parish Council



Our nearest defibrillator is located at the Village Hall LA8 0JU

What3words#  
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**SEDGWICK**  
Community Emergency Plan

Sedgwick Parish Council has a Community Emergency Plan to help minimise the impact of a major local emergency on residents. In event of a major emergency, contact our Coordinator Gerry Stoker -Tel 07368 366411

### IMPORTANT EMERGENCY ADVICE

Remember; if you have to call the Emergency Services, to make sure they know which side of the aqueduct a vehicle is needed, because many modern appliances cannot pass under the aqueduct and the diversion is long

### SEDGWICK VILLAGE HALL

**Bookings:** Joyce Benson  
**Tel:** 015395 60715 **Email:**  
[joycebenson2@gmail.com](mailto:joycebenson2@gmail.com)

### 552 BUS SERVICE

There are Bus Stops at the village noticeboard and Wharfe Lane - The timetable is available by scanning this QR code

